

Caroline has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Caroline Wright her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scouts Gold Award.

RECOGNIZING 21 YEARS OF SERVICE BY STEVE MATHIS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in March of 2008, I rise to thank Mr. Steve Mathis for 21 years of outstanding service to the United States Government, working at the House recording studio here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A native Californian, Steve graduated from San Diego State University in 1978. He then worked 5 years as a shift supervisor for KPBS-TV. Steve began his House career in the House recording studio's production department in 1980 when "live" House television coverage was only a year old. For the next 15 years, Steve was an indispensable member of the House's television floor coverage, recording studio, and radio production crew serving around the clock whenever House sessions required.

After a detour as a production operator at CNN for 6 years, Steve returned to the House in 2002, becoming a television director for both studio shows and House floor coverage. Highlights have included directing the 2008 State of the Union broadcast along with working on numerous other joint sessions with world leaders.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Mr. Mathis for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him and his wife Paula many wonderful years fulfilling his retirement dreams of visiting every Major League ballpark in the country and taking bicycle trips throughout the world.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res 312) revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013:

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, the Democrats proposed budget is tax and spend all over again.

Instead of preserving tax relief for Americans, the Democrat budget includes a \$683 billion tax increase. This is \$683 billion dollars the majority plans to take from everyday American, who are already feeling the pinch from rising gas prices, increasing food costs, and credit card debt. These horrendous tax increases are meant to pay for the tens of billions in wasteful, new Federal spending proposed in the Democrat budget.

And where is the entitlement reform that we so desperately need to ensure our children and grandchildren are not saddled with the price of our inaction? It is nowhere to be found in the Democrat budget.

For a majority leadership that sailed into power under the guise of change, it is terribly obvious that what this budget represents is merely more of the same—more of the same wasteful spending and tax increases to pay for it all. Washington does not have a revenue problem. It has a spending problem. The Democrat budget has got it backwards.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

THANK YOU TO THE KANSAS COYOTES

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise to share the conclusion of a dramatic story that began in the early days of World War II. This testimony underscores the heart and commitment of our Kansas Airmen. In 1944, the crew of a B-24 Liberator bomber was brought down by anti-aircraft fire in the Pacific near Palau. That crew was not found until March of this year. Sixty-four years after the crew of the U.S. Army Air Forces gave their lives for America—the Joint P-O-W/M-I-A Accounting Command recovered the men from their watery graves. Volunteer Kansas Air National Guardsmen from the 190th Air Refueling Wing returned them home to the United States. The fallen men will, finally, be able to rest in peace in the soil of the country they fought to protect. I'd like to give a profound "thank you" to the Kansas Coyotes for their role in helping to provide the long overdue closure for the families of the Babes in Arms crew. I commend you for your spirit and dedication to your fellow soldier.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. LOUIS E. McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to join my friend and colleague, BRIAN BAIRD, in introducing the Political Intelligence Disclosure Act. By requiring political intelligence firms to make their activities known in the same way lobbying is reported, this bill will help to bring transparency to the growing world of political intelligence.

Political intelligence firms were first established in the 1970s and have been operating

since then without regulation. This industry focuses not on influencing Congress, but on gathering information on forthcoming legislative action in order to give their clients an advantage over other investors. This information is then used to influence decisions on stocks, securities and commodities. Currently, firms conducting political intelligence are not required to disclose their clients or earnings. But the bill we are introducing today would change that and require the same disclosure from political intelligence firms as from lobbying firms.

With leading experts noting that political intelligence businesses have quadrupled in size since 2003, these businesses are now emerging as a key factor in the lobby industry, and should be regulated accordingly. Such an important and increasingly relevant business should certainly be required to make its activities known to the public.

Additionally, there have been reports that employees of political intelligence firms have been attending meetings related to legislation, essentially posing as lobbyists. By requiring disclosure of these firms, this bill will ensure that people attending meetings where legislation is discussed make their intentions known and their goals clear.

The Political Intelligence Disclosure Act will bring necessary accountability to this growing field, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor. We must make political intelligence firms accountable and transparent. This important bill will do just that. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill today.

HONORING STEPHEN FEINSTEIN

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Stephen Feinstein, the director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and adjunct professor of history at the University of Minnesota, who died unexpectedly on March 4, 2008. He was 64.

Born in Philadelphia and educated at Villanova and New York Universities, Prof. Feinstein taught for 30 years at the University of Wisconsin at River Falls before joining the faculty at the University of Minnesota. From its founding in 1997, he built the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies into an internationally renowned educational, research, and outreach institution that was engaged with a broad range of human rights issues, including the Armenian Genocide, the treatment of Native Americans, and the humanitarian crises in East Africa. To end genocide, he once said, "we must study it and understand how it works against what we call 'civilization,'" if possible to develop an "early warning system" to prevent future genocides.

Feinstein was known around the world as an advocate for Holocaust survivors and genocide education, and in particular, for his expertise on artistic expression and genocide. In addition to his CHGS responsibilities and activities, he served as an art consultant and guest curator for numerous museums, universities and art galleries in Minnesota, Florida, New York and Washington, D.C.

"Above all else," said his colleague Eric Weitz, "Stephen Feinstein was a great humanitarian, someone with a profound belief in the